

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02395 01 OF 03 101544Z
ACTION IO-06

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1944
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 02395

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, APER
SUBJECT: UN PERSONNEL: PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENTS - UN GENEVA

REFS: (A)USUN 2350, (B)USUN 2367, (C)STATE 136564,
(D) GENEVA 08344, (E) GENEVA 08297, (F) VIENNA 05027

1. SUMMARY. CONSULTATIONS TOOK PLACE WITH MAJOR CONTRI-
BUTORS AND OTHERS PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL (C). THEY
SHOWED NO COHESIVE GROUNDSWELL OF DETERMINATION
TO BLOCK GELY DNEPROVSKY'S APPOINTMENT TO GENEVA THROUGH
DEMARCHE TO SYG WALDHEIM. END SUMMARY

2. CONCURRENTLY WITH RECEIPT REFTEL (C) UK DEPUTY PERMREP
(BROWN) MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR LEONARD, WHILE DISCUSSING
OTHER MATTERS, UKG CONCERN OVER PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF
DNEPROVSKY TO VACANCY OF CHIEF OF UN PERSONNEL DIVISION
GENEVA CREATED BY DEPARTURE OF ABDOU CISS (SENEGAL)
AND THAT UKUN WAS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON.
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3. NEXT DAY, UKUN FIRST SECRETARY, ACCEPTING THAT USG
WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE THE LEAD PURSUANT TO OUR
INSTRUCTIONS, INDICATED THEY HAD HEARD FROM LONDON AND
THEY WERE PREPARED TO GO TO DAVIDSON WITH US IN AN
EFFORT TO PREVENT APPOINTMENT. HE SAID THEIR GENEVA
MISSION WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DNEPROVSKY

AFFAIR. (USUN MEANWHILE HAD FOUND OUT THAT DNEPROVSKY WAS PREPARING TO BE IN GENEVA JULY 15 ON DIRECT TRANSFER, ALTHOUGH NO INTERNAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAD YET BEEN ISSUED. DAVIDSON WOULD ONLY RETURN FROM HIS TRIP TO CHINA JUNE 6.)

4. RECOGNIZING SOVIET INTERESTS WOULD ALWAYS BE OVERRIDING IN THE CASE OF ALL SOVIET INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS, UK'S FINDINGS CONCERNING DNEPROVSKY'S QUALIFICATIONS WERE THAT HE WAS A RIGID, BUREAUCRATIC STICKLER FOR THE RULES, ABSOLUTELY CORRECT IN HIS DEALINGS, RENDING A CONSISTENTLY GOOD PERFORMANCE.

5. TO COVER ALL BETS MISOFF ASKED (A) IF UKG WOULD SOSSIBLY PUT FORWARD GEOFFREY HOLMES (UK) AS CISS' SUCCESSOR; AND (B) WHETHER THERE WAS ANY DANGER BRIAN DUKE (UK) WOULD LEAVE POST AS CHIEF OF GENEVA SECRETARIAT RECRUITMENT SECTION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. UKOFF'S INFORMATION WAS THAT HOLMES WANTED TO STAY IN VIENNA BECAUSE OF HIS SICK AUSTRIAN MOTHER-IN-LAW; THAT UKG WOULD CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD HIS PROMOTION TO DIRECTORSHIP TO UNIDO DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES; THAT THEY CONSIDERED HIM TOO SENIOR FOR THE GENEVA POST. "STRICTLY ENTRE NOUS" HE DISCLOSED THAT DUKE HAD WANTED TO LEAVE BECAUSE OF A BAD PERFORMANCE
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RATING FROM CHACKAL (THIS MUST BE PROTECTED) BUT HE THOUGHT DUKE WAS NOW WILLING TO STAY. UKOFF WAS ADVISED BY MISOFF IN LATER CONVERSATION THAT HOLMES HAD ASKED A UK NATIONAL IN GENEVA ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF THE CISS POST FOR HIMSELF.

6. IN VIEW OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSULT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TOWARD A DEMARCHE TO THE SYG - NOT DAVIDSON AS THEY WERE READY TO DO - UKUN AGREED TO WAIT OVERNIGHT TO PERMIT USG TO REVIEW ITS INSTRUCTIONS. UKOFF SAID, AS FAR AS OBTAINING VIEWS OF OTHER MEMBERS, HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO GOING AHEAD AND SPEAKING FOR THEM WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM.

7. SIMULTANEOUS TALKS WITH FRENCH, BELGIANS, JAPANESE, CANADIANS, AND GERMANS SHOWED THAT ALL HAD HEARD FROM THEIR GENEVA MISSIONS, NONE HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER TACTICS. ALL DISPLAYED EXTREME RELUCTANCE TO POLITICIZE A D-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT, TO INTERFERE WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDERED SYG'S INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY. NONE WERE READY TO JOIN IN A COLLECTIVE ACTION AT THE

SECRETARY GENERAL LEVEL. NONE HAD HEARD OF ANY POSSIBLE
CLAIM TO THE JOB FROM G-77. SPECIFIC ATTITUDES
EMERGED AS FOLLOWS:

8. BELGIAN MINISTER STATED THEY HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO
JOIN IN A DEMARCHE AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL; THEIR
INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS HIGHLIGHTED THE
DELICACY OF THE MATTER AND THEY HAD NOT YET DETERMINED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 02395

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WHAT THAT LEVEL SHOULD BE. THEY QUESTIONED WHAT WE
KNEW ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE, COMPORTMENT, PROFESSIONALISM,
ETC. OF DNEPROVSKY TO DATE AND IN A LATER MEETING
REPORTED THAT THEIR FINDINGS BORE OUT THAT DNEPROVSKY
HAD MET ALL THE FOREGOING REQUIREMENTS MORE THAN
SATISFACTORILY. BELGIANS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL
TO KNOW HOW AND WHY SELECTION OF DNEPROVSKY HAD COME
ABOUT, STRESSING UTMOST CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO HANDLE
THIS HIGHLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT DISCREETLY SO THAT THERE
IS NO INFERENCE OF INTERFERING IN WHAT IS SYG'S PROPER
INDEPENDENT ROLE. BELGIAN MISSION THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
USEFUL TO HAVE AN INITIAL GO AROUND WITH DAVIDSON TO
FIND OUT HIS VIEW ABOUT THE SELECTION AND TO APPRISE
HIM OF THE CONCERN IT HAS GENERATED, RESTING A DECISION
ABOUT GOING JOINTLY TO THE HIGHER LEVEL ON DAVIDSON'S
REACTION.

9. JAPANESE MINISTER'S CONCERN WAS DIVIDED EQUALLY
BETWEEN THE OBVIOUS DANGERS SUCH AN APPOINTMENT COULD
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GENERATE AND THE SERIOUSNESS OF INTERFERING WITH THE
SECRETARY GENERAL'S PREROGATIVES. HE FEARED
THAT INTERFERENCE NOW WOULD CREATE GREATER DANGERS FOR
JOINT LONG RANGE PERSONNEL OBJECTIVES THAN THE DANGER
RESULTING FROM DNEPROVSKY'S INCUMBENCY OF THE JOB.
HE HAD WORKED WITH DNEPROVSKY AND PORTRAYED HIM IN THE
SAME TERMS AS THE OTHERS, ADDING FROM THE BENEFIT
OF PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCESHIP THAT HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED
BY "HIS PERFORMANCE AND OBJECTIVITY" (GIVEN THE
PARAMETERS OF SOVIET OBJECTIVITY). THE PRESENCE OF
RUEDAS IN GENEVA AS DNEPROVSKY'S SUPERIOR WAS AN
AMELIORATING FACTOR. HE DWELT AT GREATER LENGTH ON
THE BEARING A JOINT MOVE WOULD HAVE ON THE EQUALLY
IMPORTANT PROBLEMS THE WEST WILL FACE IN THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL QUESTIONS IN
THIS AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

10. CANADIAN COUNSELOR ADVISED THEY HAD HEARD FROM THEIR
GENEVA MISSION SIMPLY IN A REPORTING SENSE. HE WANTED
TIME TO LOOK INTO THE SUBJECT FURTHER, HE QUESTIONED THE
NEED FOR A JOINT DEMARCHE, COMMENTING THAT HE HAD NOT
PREVIOUSLY COME UP AGAINST THE PRACTICE OF MAKING JOINT
DEMARCHES IN PERSONNEL MATTERS AND ASKED WHY IT WOULDN'T
BE POSSIBLE TO GO INDIVIDUALLY.

11. INITIAL REACTION OF FRENCH COUNSELOR WAS THAT WHOLE
IDEA OF DEMARCHE WAS "UTTERLY RIDICULOUS." FRENCH TOLD
UKUN AND USUN SEPARATELY THAT DEMARCHE WOULD BE
HIGHLY POLITICAL (NOT JURIDICAL), TO THINK IN TERMS OF
WALDHEIM WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION ON THE D-1 LEVEL,
AND DEMARCHE MIGHT ENDANGER IMPORTANT PERSONNEL
ACTIONS IN THE FUTURE. THE ONLY CONCEIVABLE GROUND
THE FRENCH COULD SEE FOR A PROTEST WAS IF DNEPROVSKY
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LACKED FRENCH (AND THEIR INVESTIGATION VERIFIED THAT
HE LACKS IT).

12. GERMAN FIRST SECRETARY, STATING "WE DON'T LIKE THE
SITUATION," SAID THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO ANTAGONIZE THE
SOVIETS IN THE PERSONNEL FIELD IN VIEW OF PRESENT STATE

OF FRG-USSR RELATIONS. THEY HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLD BACK IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION AND COULD NOT EVEN BE INCLUDED VERBALLY IN TALKS AT ANY LEVEL.

13. IN REGROUPING WITH UKUN, USUN ASKED BRITS TO REVIEW THE POSITION THEY HAD TAKEN, NAMELY TO GO IN AT THE DAVIDSON LEVEL. THEY ACQUIESCED, SAYING AT THAT TIME THEIR INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO GO TO WALDHEIM ONLY IF THE FRENCH WOULD JOIN IN. THE FRENCH AGREED TO OUR NEW REQUEST TO RECONSIDER THEIR STAND, BUT DESPITE A REVIEW AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, COULD NOT REVERSE THEIR EARLIER POSITION. THEY REITERATED THAT THE BRITISH COULD SPEAK FOR THEM AT THE DAVIDSON LEVEL, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE IN SUCH A FUNCTION IN GENEVA, BUT DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT DEMARCHE AT ANY LEVEL.

14. USUN RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH J. ROBERT WEBB (US DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION) UPON HIS RETURN FROM AN OVERSEAS MISSION. WITHIN NORMAL SOVIET CONSTRAINTS, WEBB SAID THAT DNEPROVSKY HAD PERFORMED WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR THE POST ON MERIT. IN RESPONSE TO MISOFF'S QUERY HOW DNEPROVSKY'S NAME FIRST CAME ABOUT, HE SAID IT HAD COME FROM "US" AND, PINNED DOWN STILL FURTHER, HE SAID IT HAD COME FROM GHERAB AND WEBB. WHEN MISOFF QUERIED WHETHER THERE WAS WALDHEIM INVOLVEMENT, WEBB SAID THERE WAS NO SIGN OF IT AND IF IT EXISTED IT WAS NOT APPARENT. WEBB ILLUSTRATED HIS FAVORABLE CHARACTERIZATION OF
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DNEPROVSKY BY CITING DNEPROVSKY'S SUCCESS WITH THE UN
STAFF COMMITTEE IN INSTANCES WHERE OTHER OFFICIALS OF
THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL SERVICES HAD BEEN INEFFECTIVE.

15. AT THIS STAGE IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE FRENCH
WILL DO NO MORE THAN MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO GHERAB
ABOUT THE LACK OF FRENCH, THAT THE BRITISH PLAN
NO FURTHER ACTION AND THAT NO ONE ELSE IS IN FAVOR OF
ESCALATING THE SUBJECT. YOUNG

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